

Message Text

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15

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 SWF-02 AGR-20 FEA-02 AEC-11

AID-05 CEA-02 CIAE-00 CIEP-03 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-12

FPC-01 H-03 INR-11 INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01

PM-07 RSC-01 SAM-01 SCI-06 SP-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00

FRB-03 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 DRC-01 /196 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6176

INFO USCINCSO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR VE

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER MEET WITH VISITING US NEWSMEN

1. FOREIGN MINISTER EFRAIN SCHACHT OCTOBER 3 RECEIVED A GROUP OF 17 US NEWSMEN VISITING HERE UNDER SPONSORSHIP OF THE GOV CENTRAL INFORMATION OFFICE IN COOPERATION WITH THE NORTH AMERICAN ASSOCIATION AND THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THE FOREIGN MINISTER TOLD THE US NEWSMEN THE FOLLOWING.

2. VENEZUELA'S FOREIGN POLICY IS TIED TO VENEZUELA'S QUEST FOR "JUST" REMUNERATION FOR ITS PETROLEUM AND EQUALLY "JUST" PRICING OF THE MANUFACTURED GOODS VENEZUELA MUST IMPORT. DR. SCHACHT REPORTEDLY EMPHASIZED VENEZUELA'S SOLIDARITY WITH ALL DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND STATED THAT VENEZUELA IS WORKING FOR UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN COUNTRIES PRODUCING RAW MATERIALS AND THOSE CONSUMING THEM. DR. SCHACHT SAID THAT THE RECENT EXCHANGE BETWEEN THE US AND VENEZUELA OVER OIL PRICES WAS BECAUSE "FRANKNESS AND HONESTY

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HAVE NOT BEEN CHARACTERISTIC OF OUR TRADE RELATIONS."

3. ASKED IF THE GOV FELT A RESPONSIBILITY TO AID DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, DR. SCHACHT REPORTEDLY REPLIED THAT VENEZUELA HAS ALLOTTED 12 PERCENT OF ITS GNP FOR SUCH AID WHILE THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES ONLY ALLOTTED 1 PERCENT.

4. DR. SCHACHT REPORTEDLY DENIED THAT RISING OIL PRICES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR INFLATION AND PUT THE BLAME ON INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS, WHICH HAVE BEEN UNFAIR TO DEVELOPING NATIONS.

5. DR. SCHACHT REPORTEDLY SAID THAT PRESIDENT PEREZ COULD CHOOSE AN INTERNATIONAL FORUM, SUCH AS THE UNGA OR THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE IN ROME, TO EXPRESS VENEZUELA'S PETROLEUM POLICY, BUT THAT HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT PRESIDENT PEREZ WOULD DECIDE TO DO.

6. ASKED ABOUT CUBA, DR. SCHACHT REPORTEDLY DECLARED THAT THE GOV HAD COLLABORATED WITH COSTA RICA AND COLOMBIA TO HAVE THE OAS REVIEW ITS SANCTIONS AGAINST CUBA BECAUSE SUCH A REVIEW IS NECESSARY IN VIEW OF THE CHANGE IN WORLD POLITICS.

7. COMMENT. DR. SCHACHT APPARENTLY COVERED MUCH OF THE SAME GROUND IN HIS TALK WITH THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS LATER ON IN THE DAY (REPORTED SEPTEL).
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